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REMARKS BY

U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA'S REMARKS IFTAR RESIDENCE OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR

**DHAKA
JULY 31, 2012**

Distinguished guests

Assalamu Alaikum, Ramadan Kareem, Good evening, everyone

Welcome to my home; welcome to this Iftar,

Thank you for coming this evening to celebrate Iftar with me during the holy season of Ramadan.

Ramadan has special meaning for us all. Among many other things, Ramadan is a time of introspection, a time of reflection, a time to assess one's role in life, a time to put into perspective how small one is to the power of God.

It is a time to appreciate one's blessings. I truly have been blessed. First, to have a good family, a wonderful wife and children who have good values and appreciation for themselves and others. I am blessed to be here in Bangladesh, wondrous Bangladesh ... blessed to lead an embassy that truly is the finest I have known in my 31 year career ... blessed to have so many beautiful friends and colleagues from Bangladesh and from around the world ... I could not ask for more.

Bangladesh, too, is blessed. When God created the lands of the world, I think He was especially generous with Bangladesh ... the rich soil, ample water, hospitable climate, mineral riches, and the list goes on.

No doubt, Bangladesh's greatest blessing is the people of this great nation. I call them the Exceptional People, as I know none quite like them. The people of Bangladesh are monuments to the glory of the human being ... everywhere I go in Bangladesh, there is always this common

thread ... the people ... the wonderful people whose energy, dynamism, creativity, generosity, entrepreneurial skills, resilience are unmatched anywhere.

When people ask me why I am so hopeful about Bangladesh's bright future, my answer is simple: the people. And as I get to know the young generation of Bangladesh, I am doubly reassured that Bangladesh, the world's seventh largest country, will find its rightful place in the family of nations, as the young people sustain and magnify the beautiful characteristics of the Bangladeshi people.

Indeed, the future of Bangladesh is most bright.

As we await the call to prayer and the breaking of the fast, I hope each of us will contemplate for a moment our many blessings and give our thanks to God.

Again, thank you for joining us tonight for Iftar.

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